Conservation Cover for Pollinators 327 NH

Purpose: This practice is used to plant native flowering plants from seed in areas currently in sod or on annually tilled cropland.

Site preparation involves repeated herbicide, tillage, nurse crops and mowing to reduce competition from grasses and other herbaceous plants.

Also consider frost seeding clovers (red mammoth and New Zealand into pasture, and haylands) as part of Forage and Biomass Planting 512

Option 1: Site Preparation with Herbicide

Project activities:	Completion date:
Year 1	
Mow and apply herbicide to freshly mowed site	June
Mow and apply herbicide to freshly mowed site	August
Mow and apply herbicide to freshly mowed site	September
SEED- Lightly rake debris from site and plant seed via broadcast and roller or drill seeding, ideally before first snowfall.	November
Year 2	
Manage weeds by mowing three times (spring, summer, and fall). Several pollinator flowers will not bloom first year.	Spring, Summer, Fall
Apply grass selective herbicide (as needed)	June
Year 3	
Conduct regular weed control (monthly basis) via spot-spraying, or use of grass-selective herbicide to ensure annual weeds do not set seed and that perennial weeds are removed from site.	Spring, Summer, Fall
Mow pollinator plot each year after first hard frost.	Oct/Nov

Option 2: Organic Site Preparation

Project activities:	Completion date:
Year 1	
Plow down sod and Plant 75lbs/A Buckwheat, 5lbs/A Red Clover (Mammoth), 1lbs/A New Zealand White Clover, along with desired pollinator mix. Mix seed and bulk with play sand for small areas. Broadcast 75lbs of Urea and lightly disk in. Mow after first hard frost.	Spring or early summer
Year 2 and beyond.	
Be patient, several pollinator seeds take a few years to begin to flower, continue to mow after the first hard frost each year.	Spring

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Seed Mixes for Pollinator Conservation Cover

Conservation Cover-Pollinator Low Management
Frost seeding or direct seeding of red mammoth and New Zealand clovers, alfalfa, and other low cost crops to improve heath of managed honey bees and increase numbers of native bumble bees in the landscape. Typical size 3-5 acres+
Conservation Cover-Pollinator Intensive Management
Frost seeding or late summer seeding of native perennial flowering plants with especially high quality pollen and nectar. Increased cost is due to expensive seed and additional site preparation and weed control the first year after seeding. Typical size ½ acre.

Seed Mixes (costs based on 2009 prices)

1. Dry Mix-Intensive Management Scenario

Dry Site Mix	Species	Cost per lb	Quantity lb	
Purple Coneflower	*Echinacea purpurea*	$32.00	1.5	$48.00
Lavender hyssop	*Agastache foeniculum*	$80.00	1	$80.00
Wild Bergamot	*Monarda fistulosa*	$196.00	1.5	$294.00
Joe Pyeweed	*Eupatoriadelphus dubius*	$160.00	0.25	$40.00
Spotted Bee Balm	*Monarda punctata*	$160.00	1	$160.00
Marsh Blazing Star	*Liatris spicata*	$128.00	0.5	$64.00
New England Aster	*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*	$200.00	0.3	$60.00
Blue vervain	*verbena hastata*	$84.00	1.5	$126.00
partridge pea	*Chamaecrista fasciculata*	$14.00	0.75	$10.50
big leaf lupine	(lupinius polyphyllus)	24	1	$24.00
	Totals		**9.3**	$906.50

Pollinator Habitat Scenario

	Species	Cost (lb)	Quantity (lb)	Cost/Acre
Purple Coneflower	*Echinacea purpurea*	32	$ 3.00	$96.00
Red Clover (Red Mammoth)	*Trifolium pratense*	$2.75	2	$5.50
White Clover (New Zealand)	*Trifolium repens*	$3.60	2	$7.20
Purple vetch	*Vicia villosa*	$2.25	10	$22.50
buckwheat	*Fagopyrum esculentum)*	$0.75	75	$56.25
Perennial Blanket Flower	*Gaillardia aristata*	32	3	96
New England Aster	*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*	$200.00	0.3	$60.00
Crimson Clover	*Trifolium incarnatum*	$2.25	5	$11.25
	Totals		**97.3**	$ 354.70